

Duluth Traverse Trail

Mini-Master Plan

Public Open House #1

February 9th, 2017

Denfeld High School

Meet the Team



CONFLUENCE

Meeting Agenda & Objectives

1. **Educate (30min)**

- Duluth Traverse Trail
- How you can contribute

2. **Community Prioritization (30min)**

- Live polling

3. **Issues & Opportunities (60min)**

- Open house stations



Process Overview

Your Role

Listen and be respectful of other's opinions

Participate in the polling questions to define guiding principles, issues, and opportunities

Participate in online input **Social Pinpoint**

Mini-Master Plans?

Tool for Parks Department to Guide Development, Operations and Maintenance, Funding, etc.

Public Process is used to determine the future use of the trail and park.

Engages stakeholders to understand trail usage, issues, needs, and opportunities.

Completes an inventory of existing trail facilities.

Creates a clear “roadmap” of how to move forward with development of remaining trail segments and infrastructure.

Offers clear direction to the City and community partners on facility development, operations and management of the trail system.



Mini-Master Plan Goals

- **Complete** the Duluth Traverse Trail
- Provide an **Operations and Management plan** for long-term sustainability
- **Engage stakeholders** and public to build consensus and unify vision
- **Balance** recreation needs, environmental protection, safety, scenic value, and access



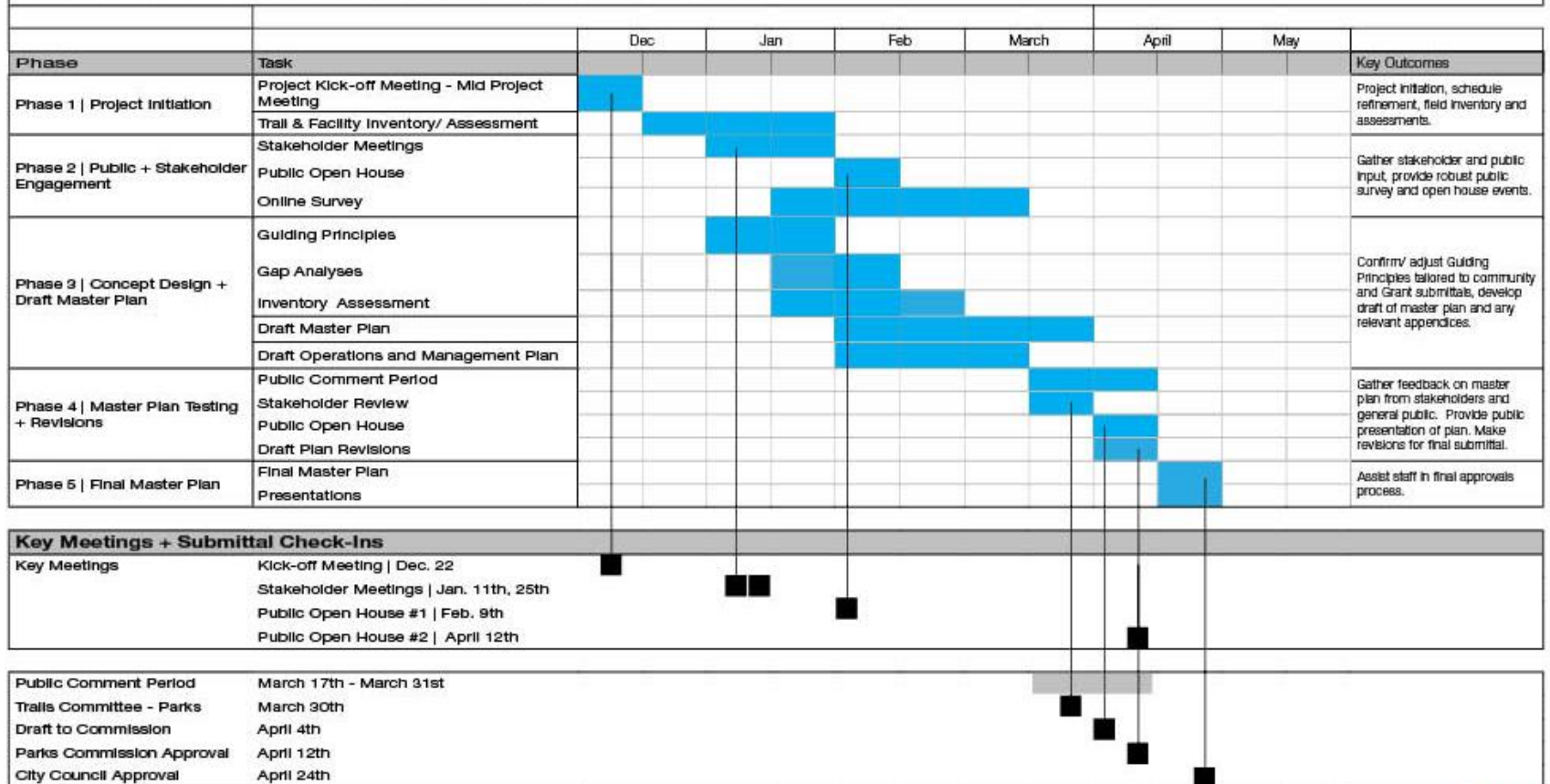
Mini-Master Plan Goals

- Provide high quality **opportunities** for local residents and regional users
- Develop **infrastructure** to support trail use (parking, trailheads, restrooms, etc.)
- Create synergies and **connections** to other outdoor recreation projects throughout Duluth
- Greater Minnesota **Regional Parks and Trails** Commission Regional Trail Designation requirements



Timeline

Duluth Traverse Trail Mini-Master Plan | Process Schedule



Project Vision Statement

The Duluth Traverse Trail Mini-Master Plan objective is to **complete, maintain, and manage** the Duluth Traverse Trail system to best **serve the recreational needs of the region**, State of Minnesota, and the citizens of Duluth.

The Duluth Traverse is a bike-optimized multi-use natural surface trail designed to provide a **nationally significant mountain biking experience**, connect people to **Duluth's beautiful natural places**, and exemplify best practices for environmentally **sustainable trail design and management**.

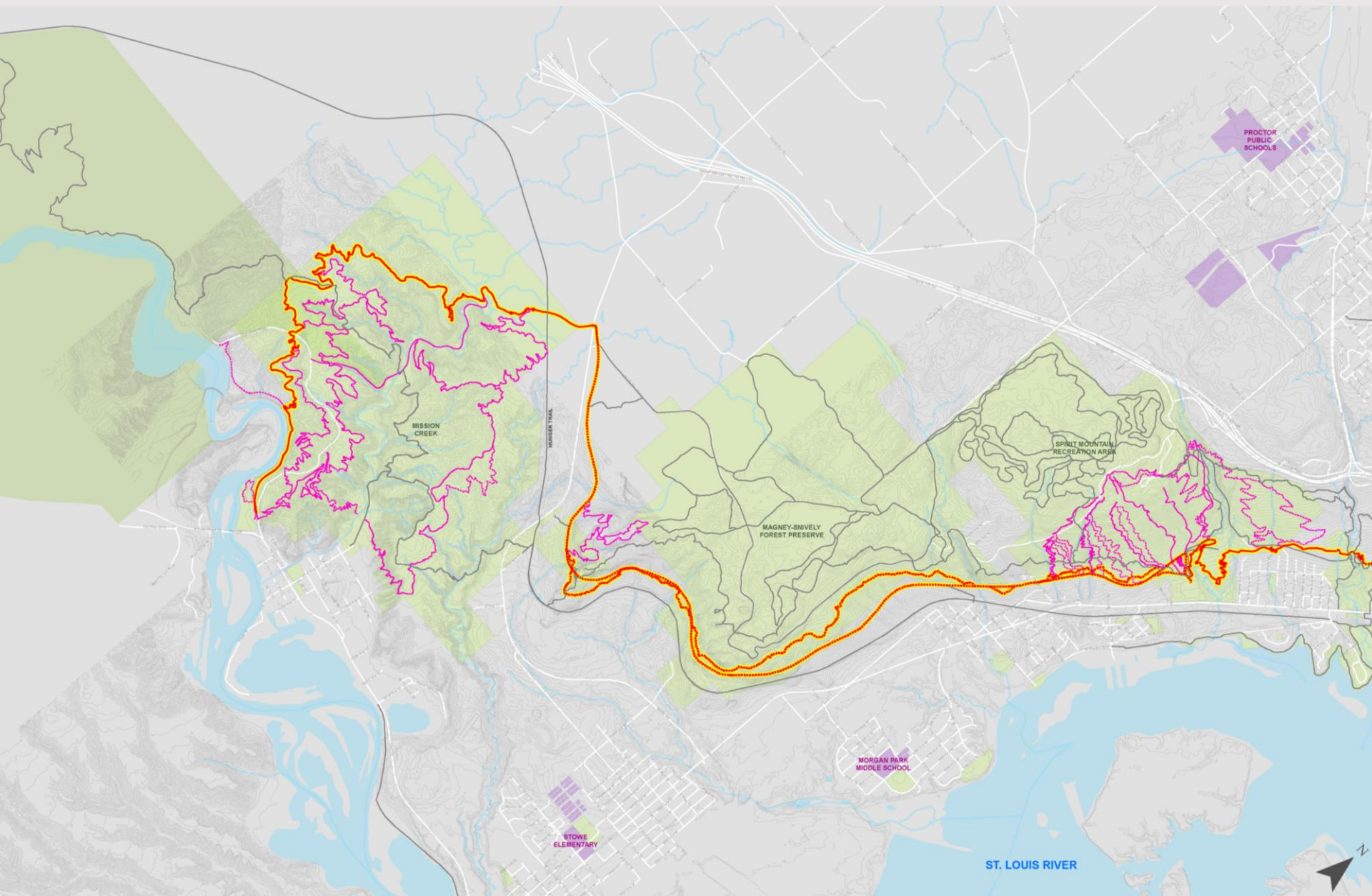


What is the Duluth Traverse Trail?

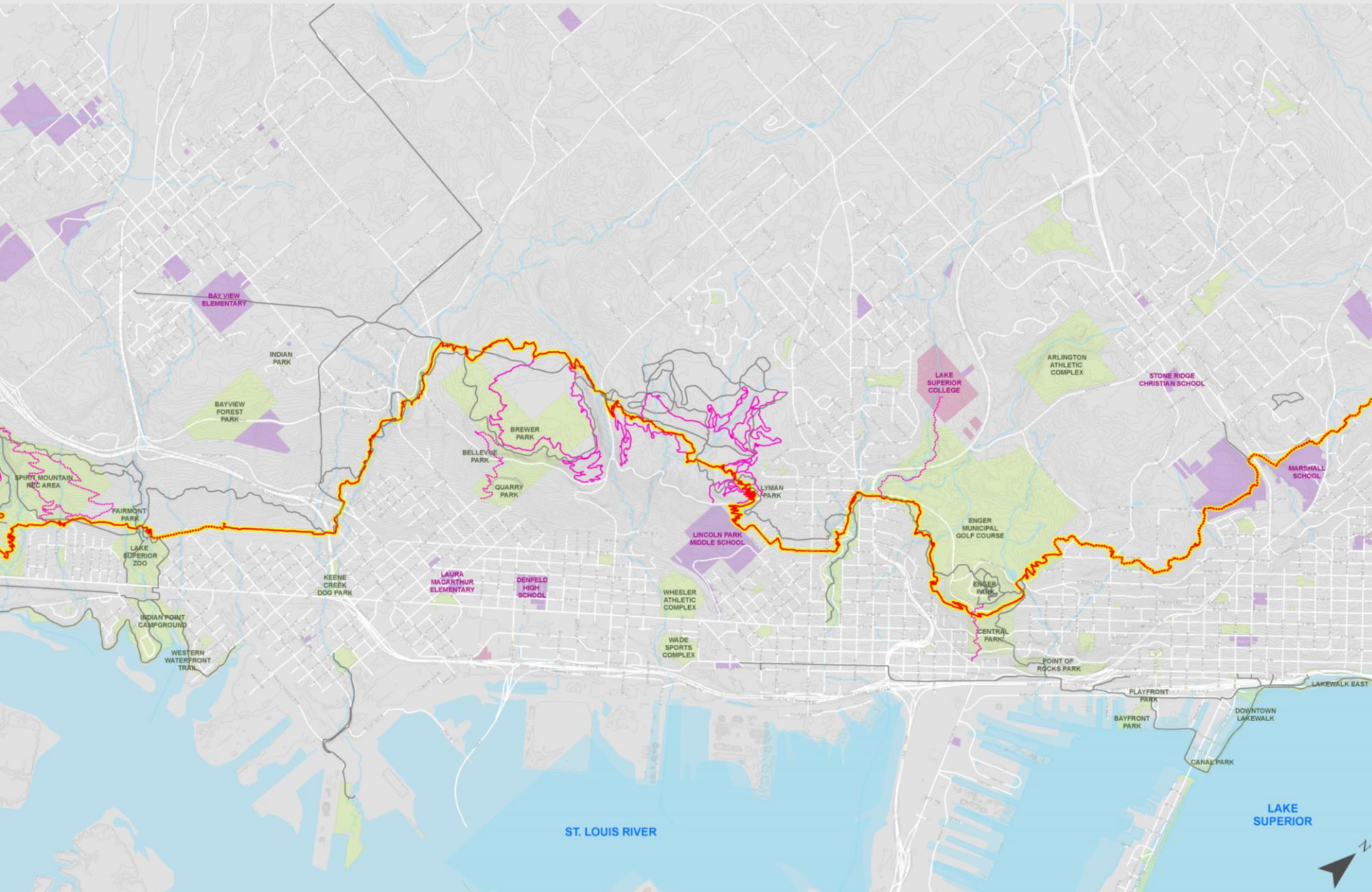
- **Duluth Traverse Spine** - 40-Mile green (easier) level continuous mountain bike trail
- Entire **Duluth Traverse Trail System** 100-Miles
- 84 Miles completed – Fall 2016
- Chambers Grove Park to Lester Park
- Connects **parks**, trail loops, open spaces, schools, **neighborhoods**, recreation areas
- Open to most **human powered** traffic modes
- National Recognition - International Mountain Biking (IMBA) **Gold Level Trail** – 1 of 7 Worldwide



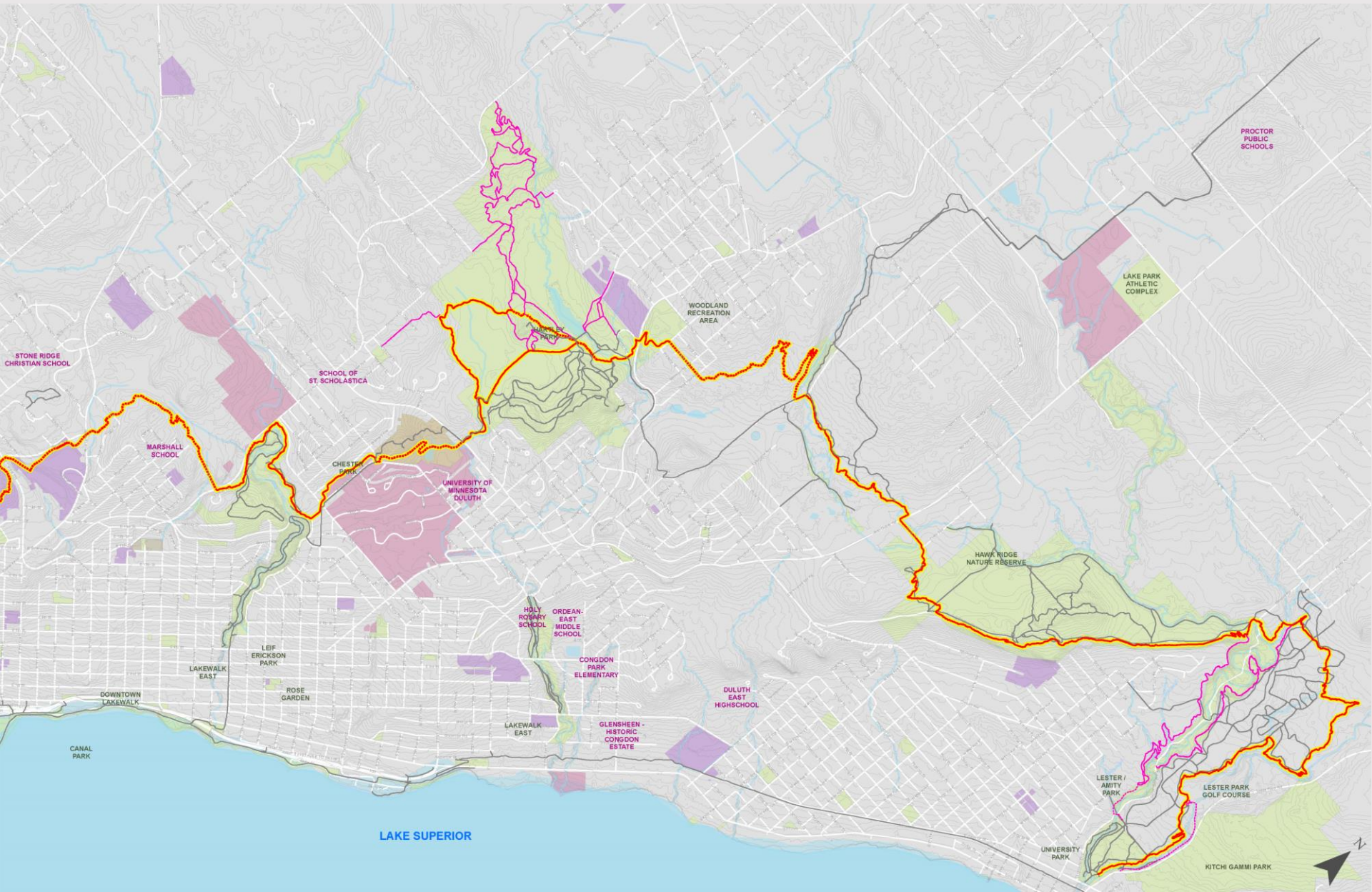
West



Central



East



Previous Plans

Duluth Traverse Trail is included in other City Master Plans

St. Louis River Corridor

Multiple City Park Mini-Master Plans

Western Trails Corridor Plan

Spirit Mountain Master Plan

Trail and Bikeway Master Plan

Parks and Trails Master Plan



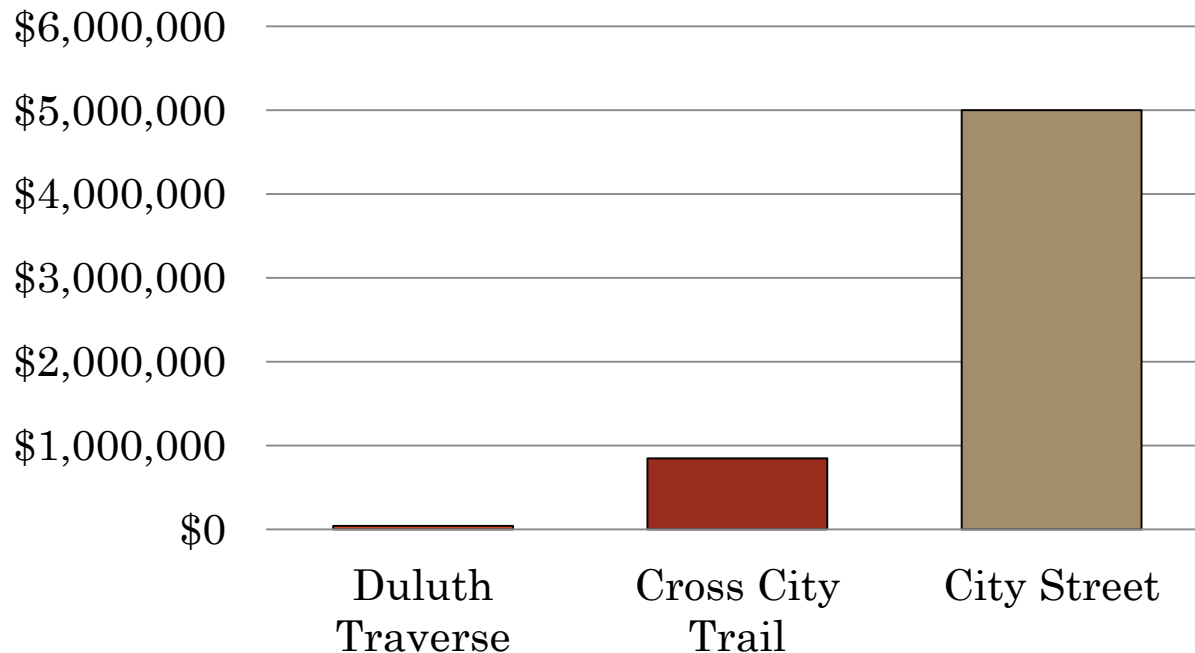
Average Construction Costs

Cost Per Mile

Duluth Traverse Trail = \$45,000

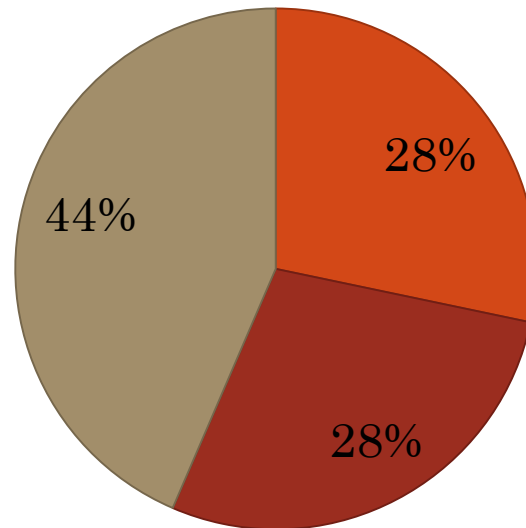
10' Wide Paved Trail = \$850,000

2-lane City Street with Sidewalks = \$5.0 Million



Project Financing to Date

Duluth Traverse Financing to Date



- Private COGGS Funding
- State & Federal Grants
- City Local Match

Maintenance Plan

Yearly Maintenance Costs Per Mile

Duluth Traverse Trail = \$500

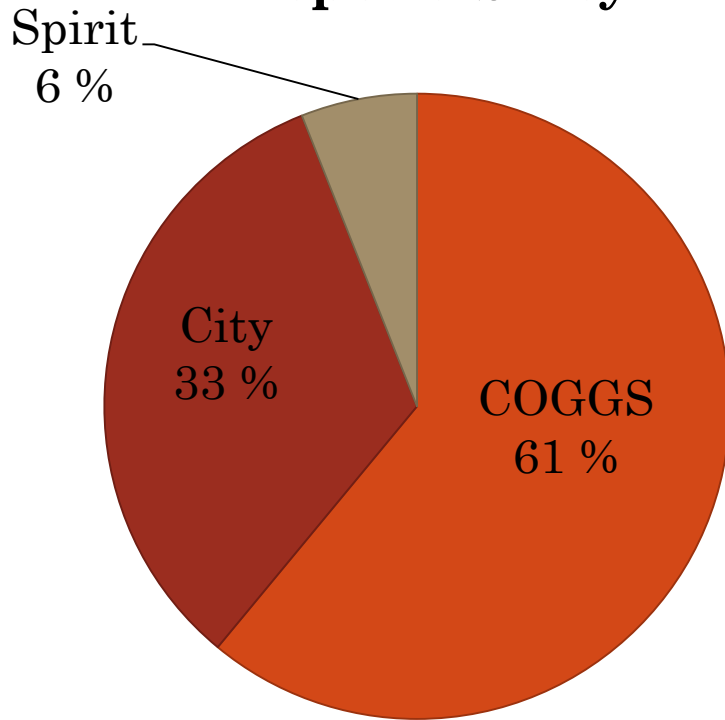
10' Wide Paved Trail = \$1,800

2-Lane City Street w/ Sidewalks = \$20,000



Maintenance Plan

Current Trail System % Responsibility



Current Resources for 85 Miles

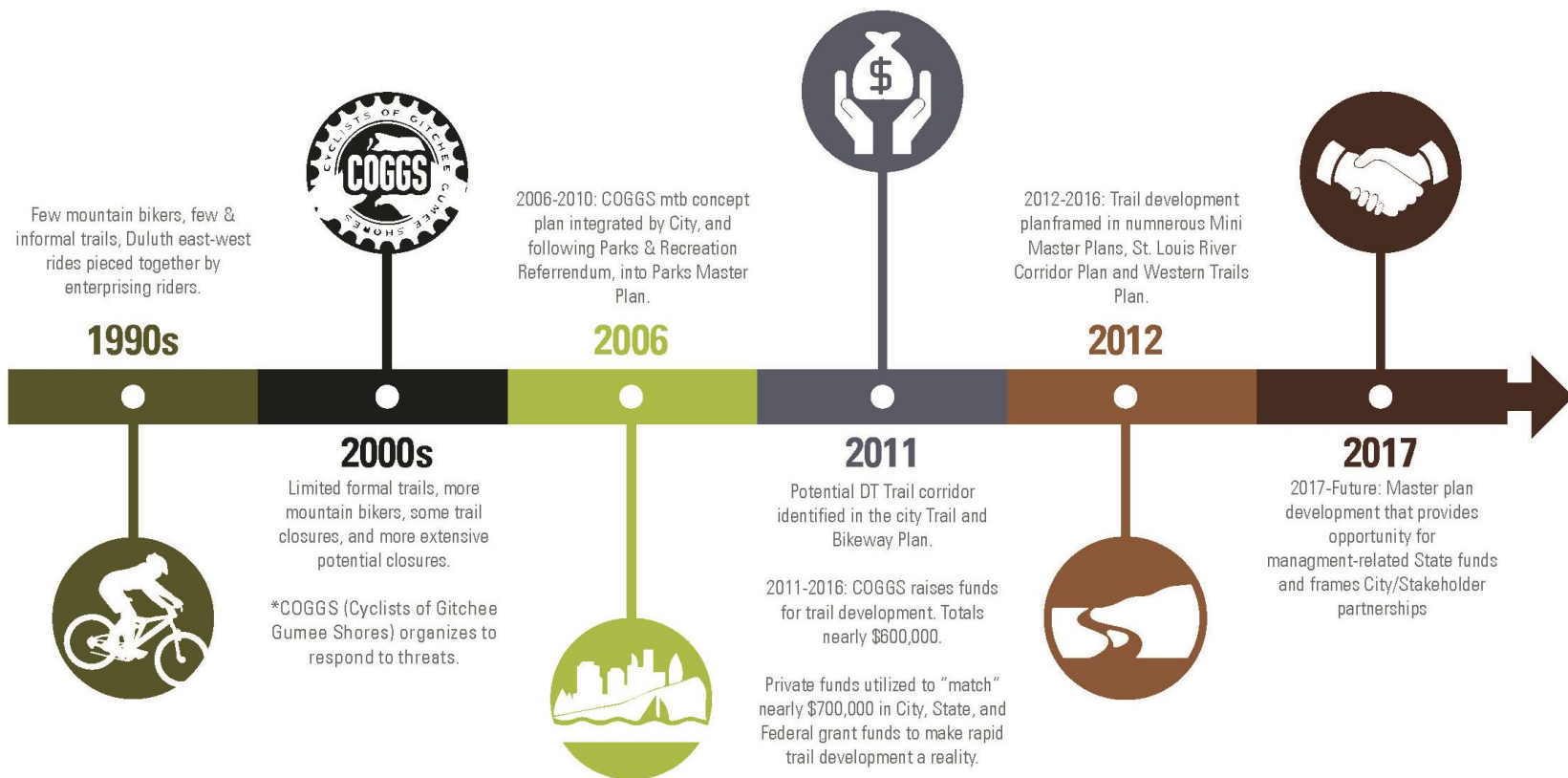
COGGS donates over 4,000 hours of volunteer time each year

COGGS employs full time seasonal Trail Crew (3 to 4 employees) 25% dedicated to maintenance

City Trail Maintenance Crew:
2-weeks a year & materials

Spirit Mtn. Trail Maintenance Crew:
Full season & materials

A Brief History





1990s

Few mountain bikers, few & informal trails, Duluth
east-west rides pieced together by enterprising
riders.



2000s

Limited formal trails, more mountain bikers, some trail closures, and more extensive potential closures.

*COGGS (Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores)
organizes to respond to threats.



2006-2010

COGGS mtb concept plan integrated by City, and
following Parks & Recreation Referendum, into
Parks Master Plan.



2011

Potential DT Trail corridor identified in the city
Trail and Bikeway Plan.

EAW for entire 100 miles completed

2011-2016: COGGS raises funds for trail
development. Totals nearly \$650,000.

Private funds utilized to “match” nearly \$700,000 in
City, State, and Federal grant funds to make rapid
trail development a reality.



2012-2016

Trail development plan framed in numerous Mini Master Plans, St. Louis River Corridor Plan and Western Trails Plan.



2017-Future

Master plan development that provides opportunity
for management-related State funds and frames
City/Stakeholder partnerships

CASE STUDIES



Destination Bike Facilities

THE ULTIMATE WINTER EXPERIENCE!

EXPLORE DULUTH'S WINTER WONDERLAND WITH A GUIDED FAT BIKE ADVENTURE



PARK COMING IN 2007

TRAIL MAP





Introductory to Expert



Recreational & Competitive Uses

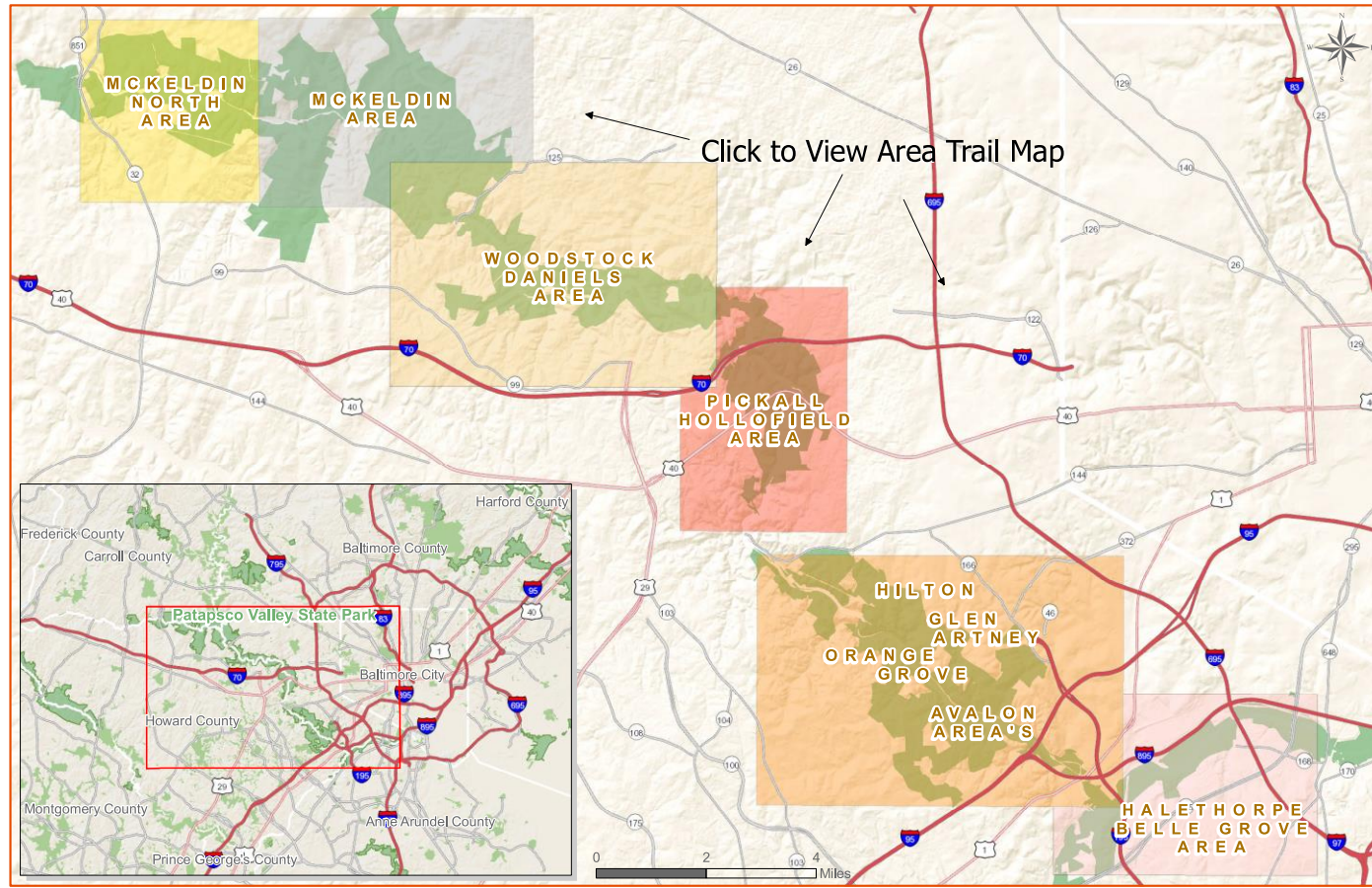
CASE STUDIES



Regional Single Track Systems:

Patapsco Valley

State Park Trails | Suburban, MD



16,000 acres



200 miles

Of shared-use trails with interconnectivity to multiple suburban communities and developed recreation areas



Hosts multiple events

Social Pinpoint



**Trail Conflicts
+ Issues**



**Trail
Opportunities**



**Missing Trail
Infrastructure**



**Neighborhood
and Connections**



Trailheads



Skills Areas

Social Pinpoint



Trail Conflicts + Issues

- Overcrowded sections and Intersections
- Bike-hike-ski conflict hotspots
- Erosion areas
- Rockfall and downed trees blocking trail
- Trail - safety risk areas
- Human – safety risk area
- One way vs. two way trail issues



Social Pinpoint



Trail Opportunities

- Spurs that add new experience, skill level
- Education opportunities
- Maintenance Considerations
- NICA infrastructure
- **How Many – Where?**



Social Pinpoint



Missing Trail Connections and Infrastructure

- Destinations to connect – Hermantown, Proctor, Jay Cooke
- Better signage to trails
- DWP area
- Types of trails – Advanced, Beginner, downhill
- Amenities – changing areas, repair stands/ washdowns, picnic areas, shower buildings, etc.



Social Pinpoint



Neighborhood Connections

- Underserved neighborhoods
- Connect to all Duluth populations
- Business connections?
- Education and notifications
- Programs – bike rentals/ giveaways
- Amenities – overlooks, dog waste, etc.



Social Pinpoint



Trailheads

- Larger gathering areas – tourists
- More **parking** needed – often overflowing
- Signage as key feature
- Social etiquette and rules expectations
- Meeting place
- Marketing – local business
- Changing stations, repair stands
- Other features – education???
- **How Many – Where?**



Social Pinpoint



Skills Areas

- Facilities that contain two or more bike-specific facilities or trails, such as dirt jumps, pump tracks, skills development features/areas.
- Variety of skill testing and learning
- Creates better/ safer riders
- Active, family-friendly learning environment
- Families of all skill level can enjoy together
- **How Many – Where?**



Guiding Principles

01

Connect People + Parks + Trails

Provide a contiguous natural surface trail from one end of Duluth to the other. Build a multi-use trail optimized for bike use that connects neighborhoods and people to parks and green spaces. Complement and connect to Duluth's other trail systems and provide a variety of different trails for users of various skill levels. Create a nationally significant destination level mountain bike trail system in the green spaces of an urban environment. Enhance the lives of residents and encourage tourism growth. Provide connections to regional trails and parks. Work toward the development of adequate facilities to handle local and tourist populations during peak use times.

02

Establish a Uniquely Duluth Destination

03

Equity + Access

Maximize accessibility for all users by ensuring Duluth Traverse Spine Trail is green level designated. Be respectful to adjacent landowners, neighbors, and other outdoor recreation users in the area. Connect underserved neighborhoods and explore methods to reduce barriers to mountain biking for all residents.

Guiding Principles

04

Protect + Restore the Environment

Utilize best practices for environmentally sustainable trail design, construction and management. Maximize opportunities for viewshed protection, natural resource preservation, and sensitive area protection and education.

05

Foster Partnerships + Community

Actively seek partnerships across disciplines and user groups to improve opportunities for Duluth's outdoor recreation users. Develop a stronger community through collaborative development and protection of Duluth's unique outdoor recreation resources. Share knowledge and resources among user groups.

06

Long Term Sustainability +

Identify best management practices and procedures to ensure long-term success. Utilize and integrate new technologies to improve maintenance efficiency, safety, collaboration, and community building.

07

Educate All Users

Provide clear and engaging signage and wayfinding to promote neighborhood access, efficiency, safety, and social etiquette education. Develop a culture of educated trail users that protect the environment and respect each other.



Any Questions?
10 minutes

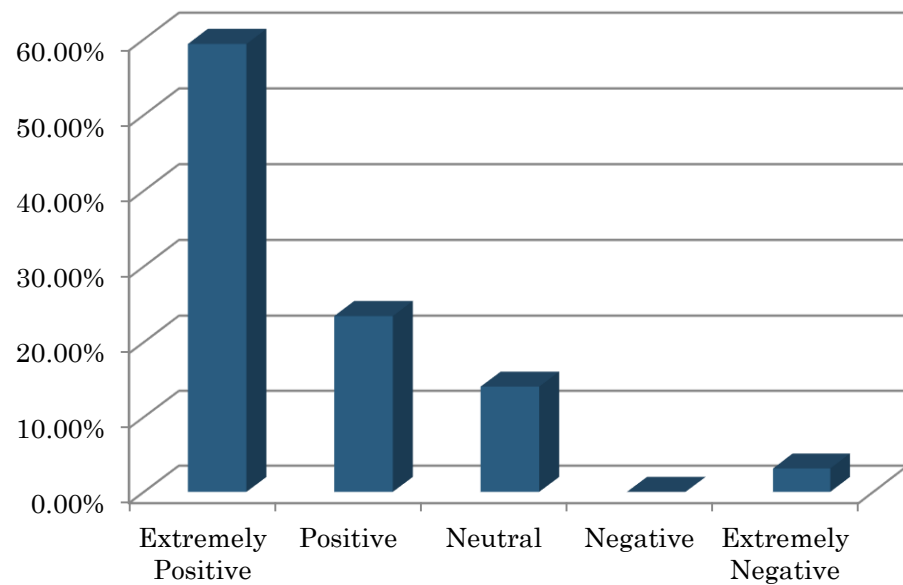


Live Polling



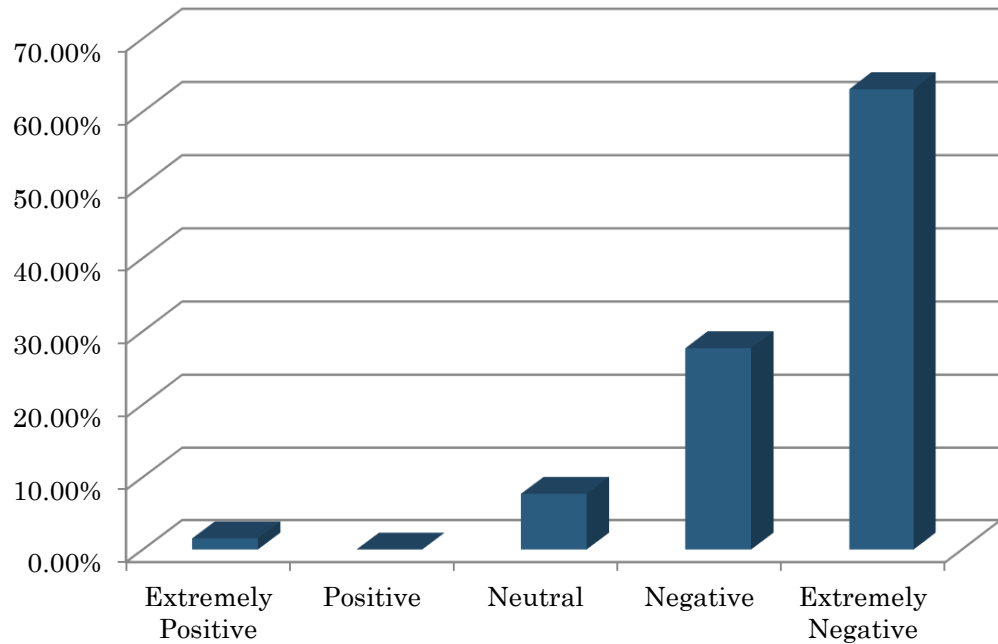
Response to the Photo

- A. Extremely Positive
- B. Positive
- C. Neutral
- D. Negative
- E. Extremely Negative

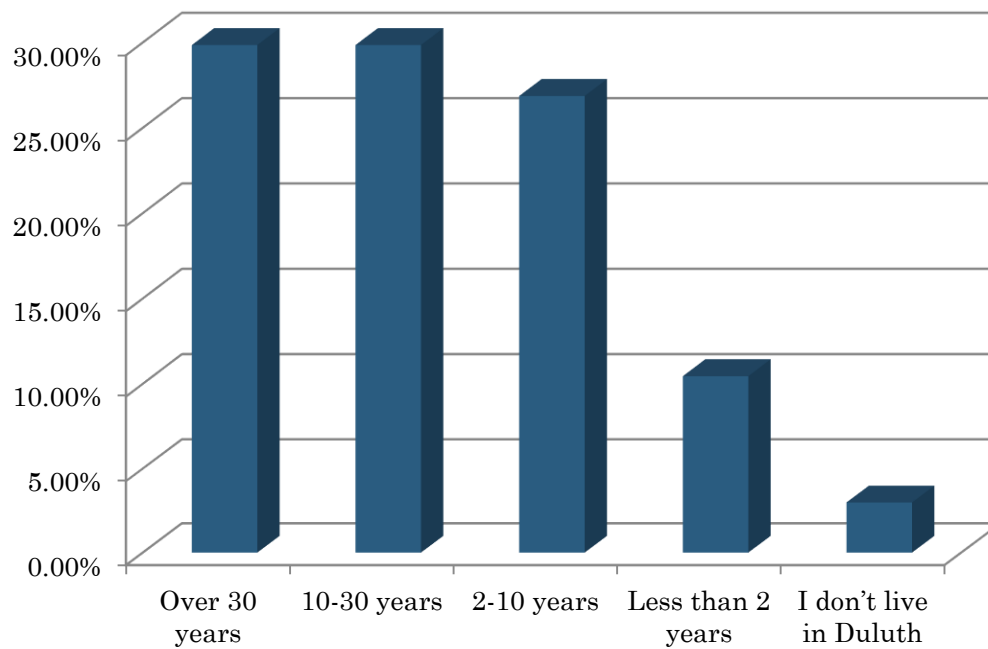




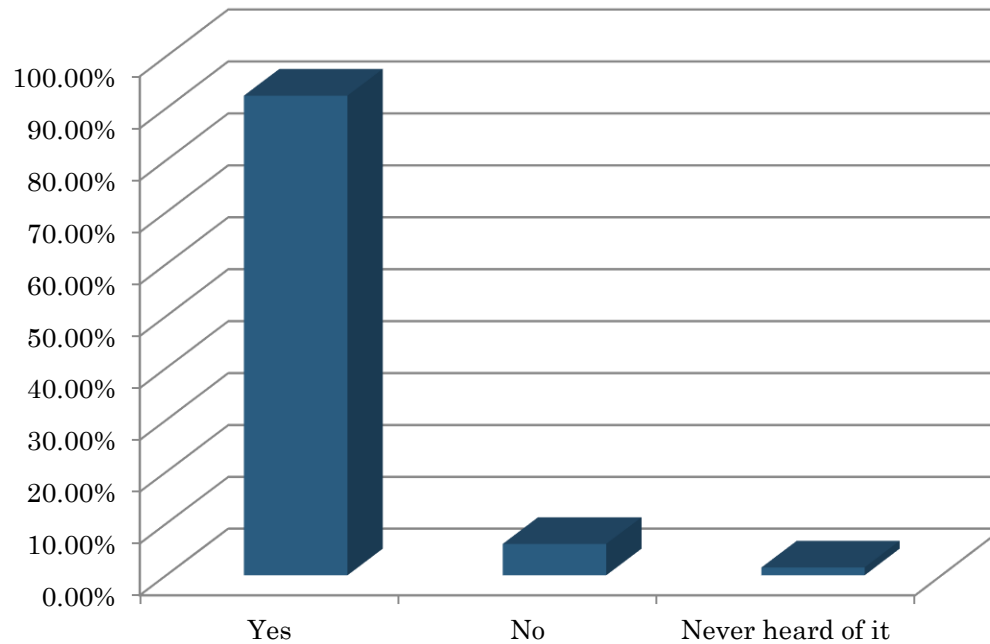
Response to the Photo



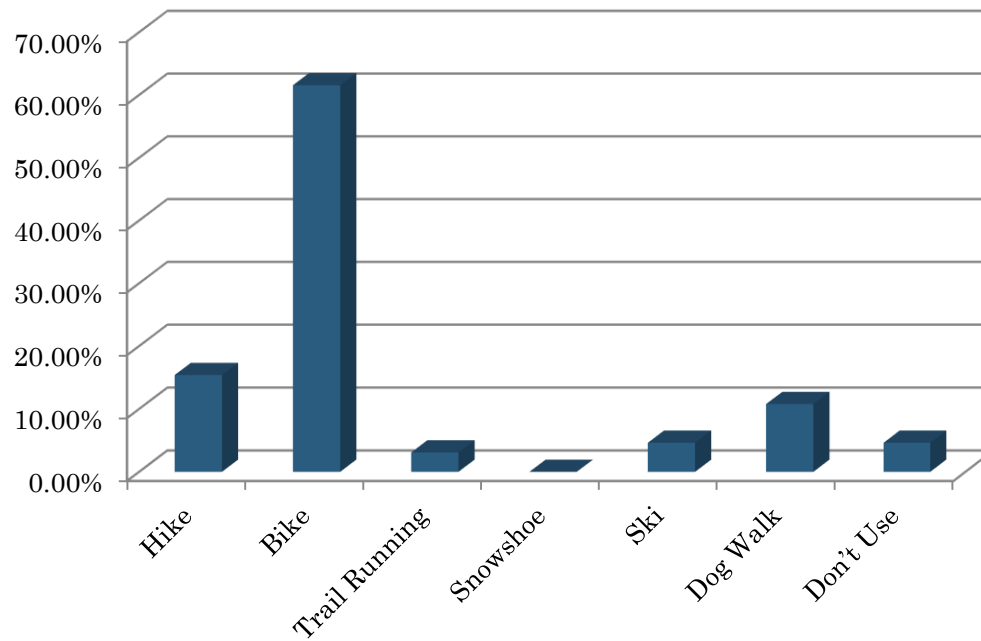
How long have you lived in Duluth?



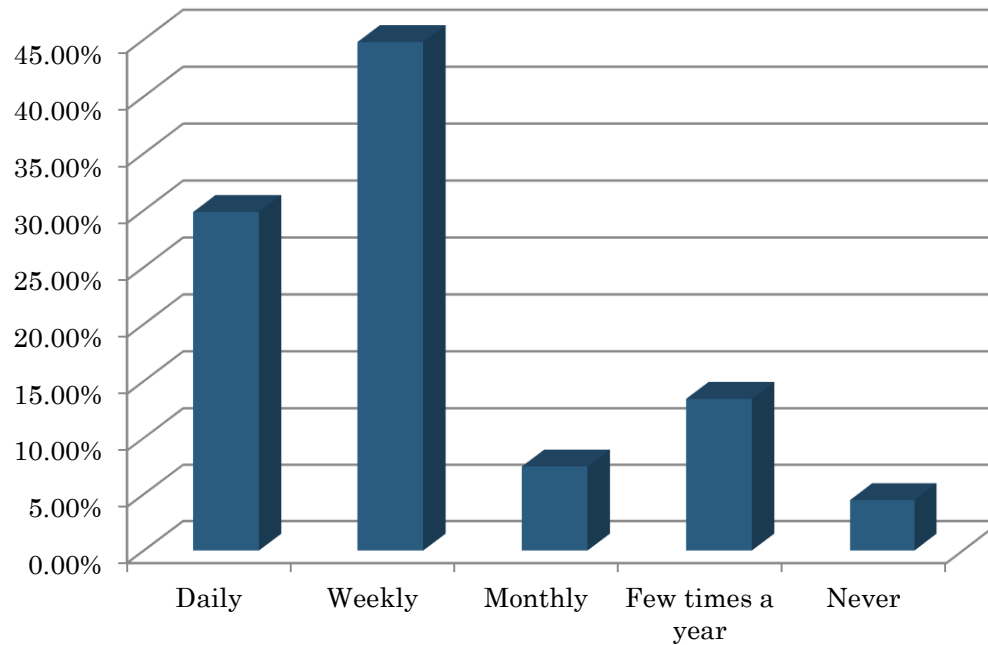
Have you ever used the Duluth Traverse Trail or portions of the Duluth Trail?



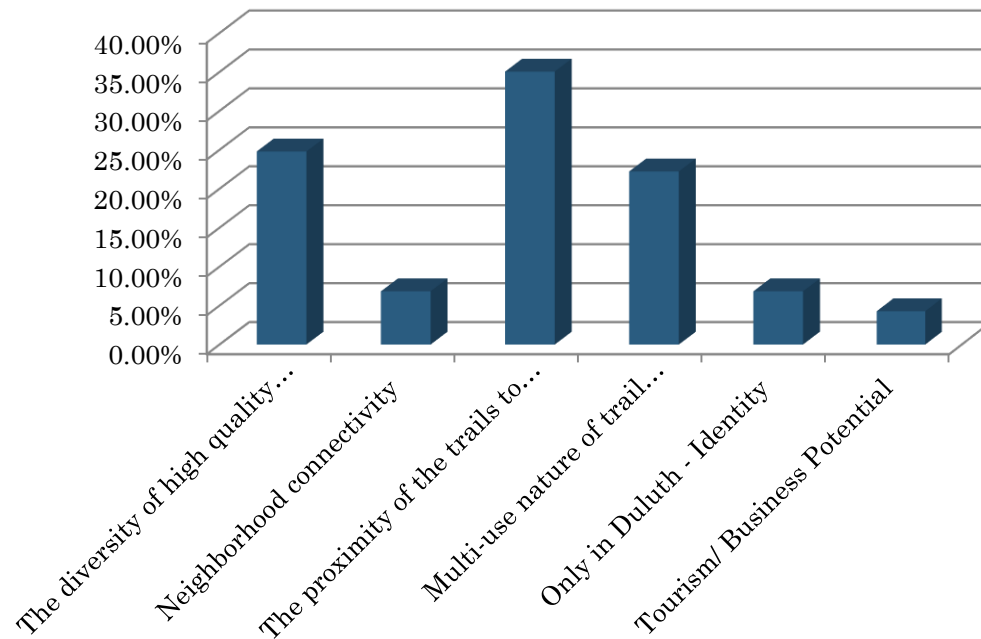
What is your primary use of the Duluth Traverse Trail?



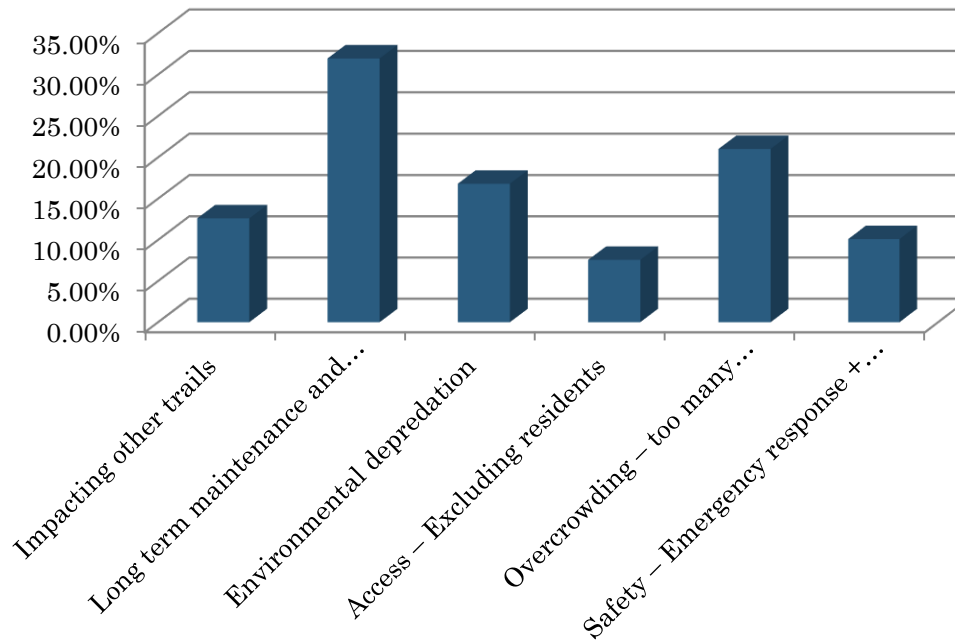
How often do you use the Duluth Traverse Trail?



What do you like most about the Duluth Traverse Trail? (choose 2)



What are you most concerned about with the Duluth Traverse Trail? (choose 2)



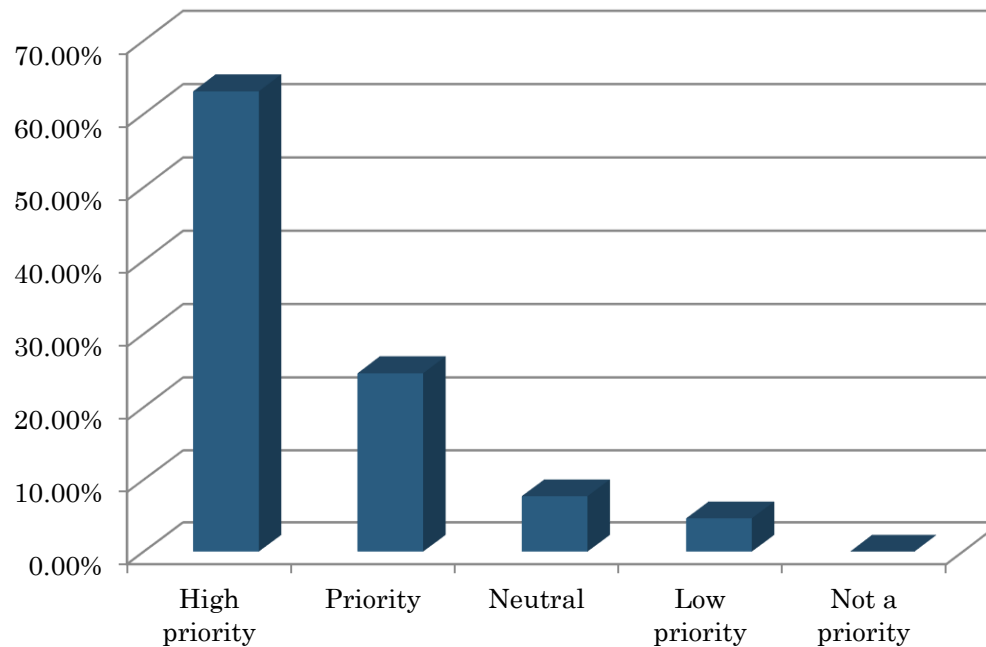


Guiding Principles

GP1

Connect People + Parks + Trails

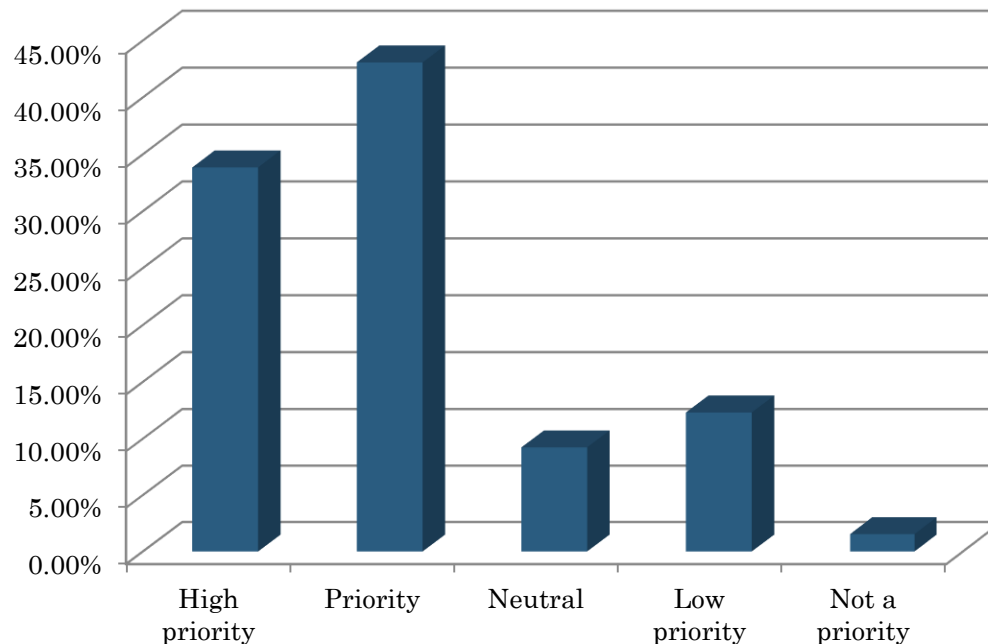
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GP2

Establish a Uniquely Duluth Destination

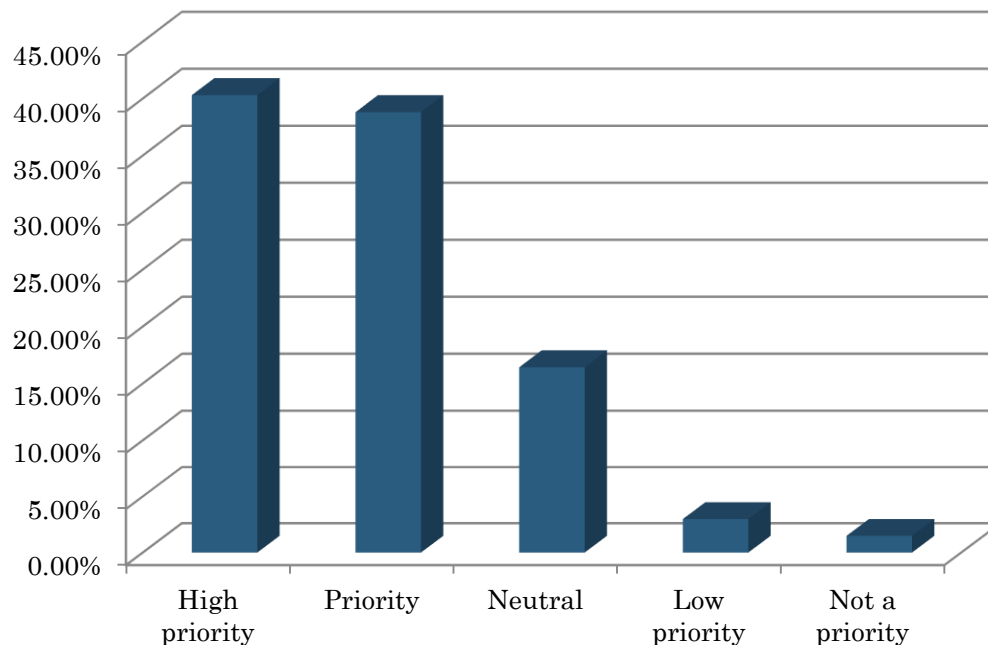
Create a nationally significant destination level mountain bike trail system in the green spaces of an urban environment. Enhance the lives of residents and encourage tourism growth. Provide connections to regional trails and parks. Work toward the development of adequate facilities to handle local and tourist populations during peak use times.



GP3

Equity + Access

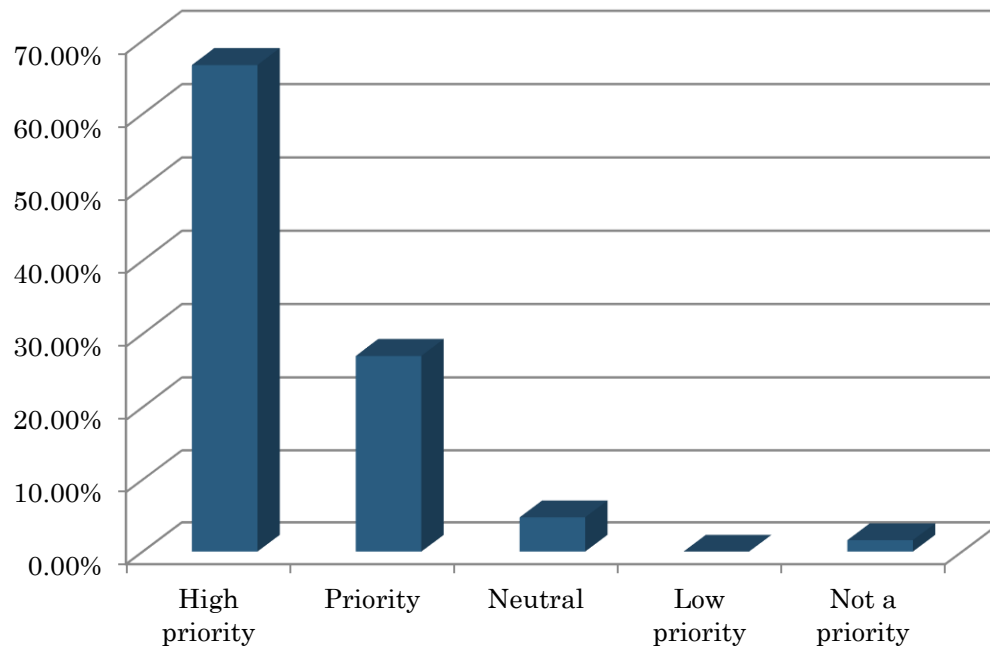
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GP4

Protect + Restore the Environment

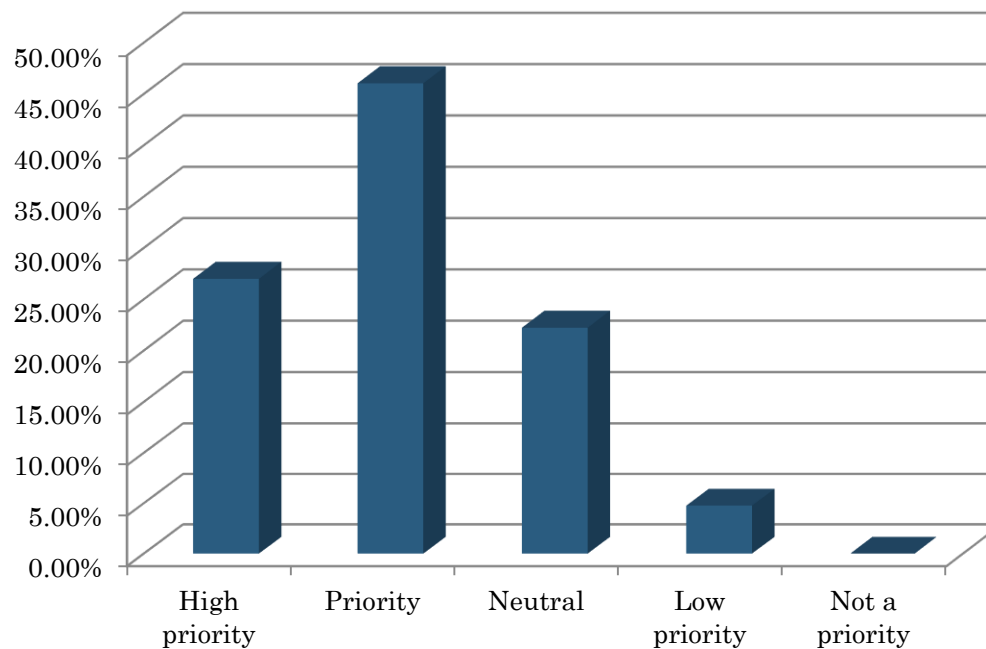
Utilize best practices for environmentally sustainable trail design, construction and management. Maximize opportunities for viewshed protection, natural resource preservation, and sensitive area protection and education.



GP5

Foster Partnerships + Community Building

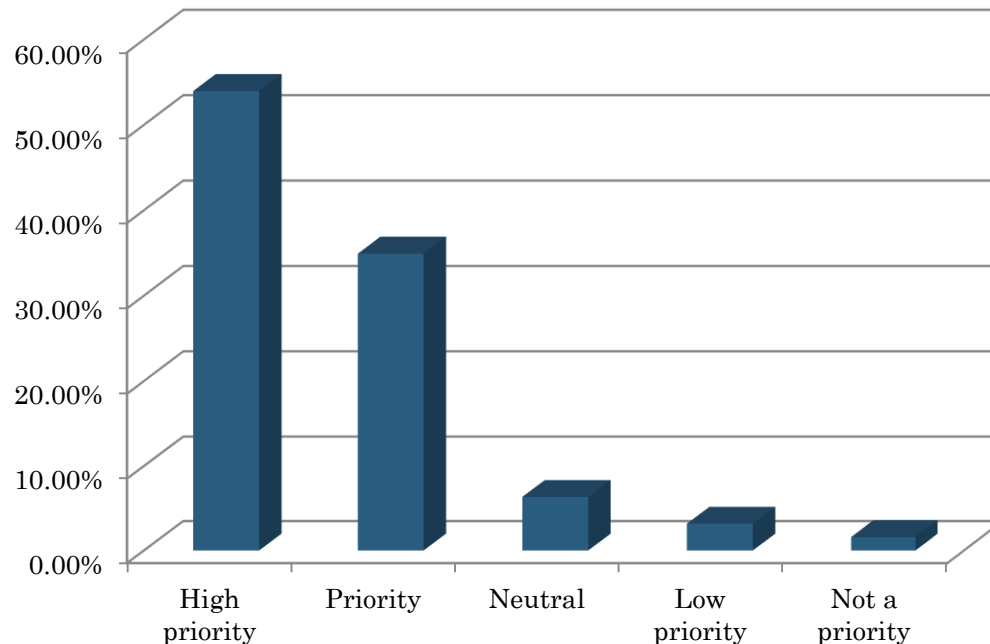
Actively seek partnerships across disciplines and user groups to improve opportunities for Duluth's outdoor recreation users. Develop a stronger community through collaborative development and protection of Duluth's unique outdoor recreation resources. Share knowledge and resources among user groups.



GP6

Long Term Sustainability + Innovation

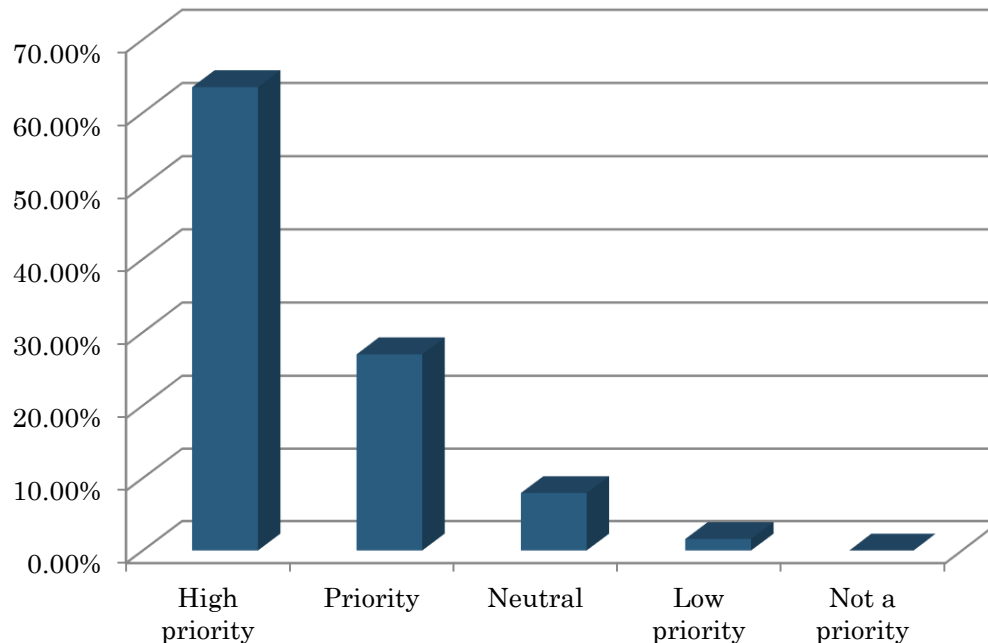
Identify best management practices and procedures to ensure long-term success. Utilize and integrate new technologies to improve maintenance efficiency, safety, collaboration, and community building.



GP7

Educate all Users

Provide clear and engaging signage and wayfinding to promote neighborhood access, efficiency, safety, and social etiquette education. Develop a culture of educated trail users that protect the environment and respect each other.



1

Issues and Opportunities

Give us your initial reaction to the following issues and opportunities

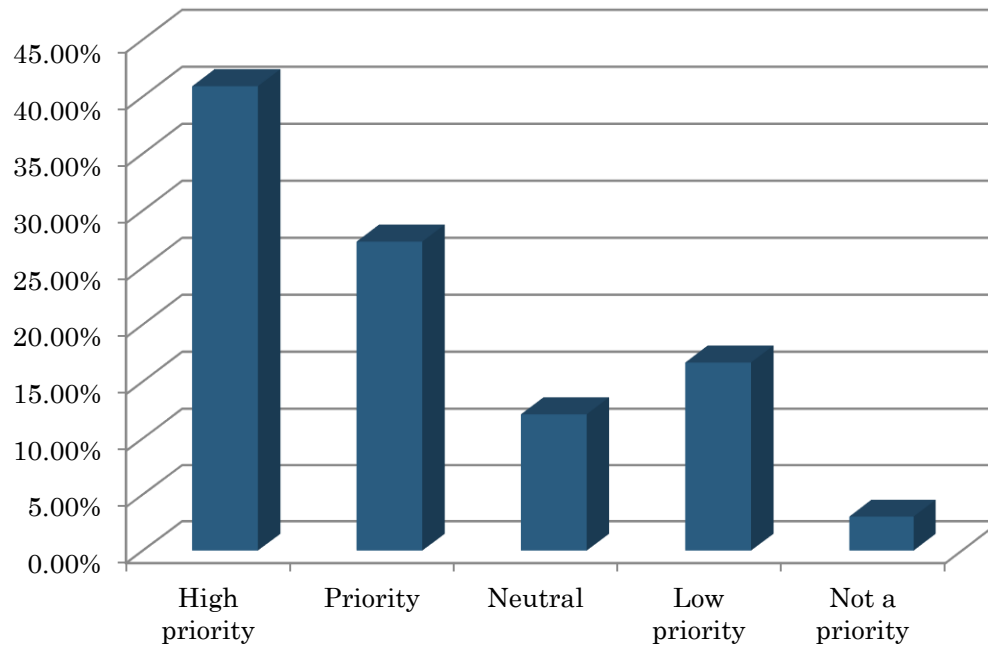
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1. User Conflicts
2. Trail Distribution
3. Management/
Maintenance
4. Trail Etiquette
5. Safety and Crime
6. Traffic + Trailheads
7. Missing Connections
8. Signage + Wayfinding
9. Skill Building Areas
10. Natural Resource
Protection

1

User Conflicts

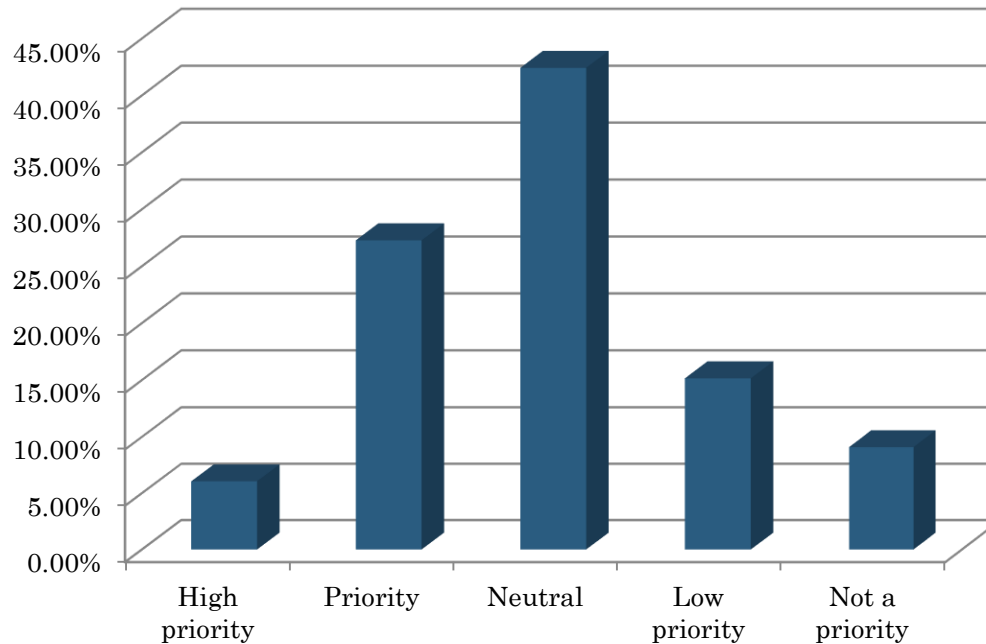
between different types of users on the same trail – bikers, hikers, runners, snowshoers, etc.



2

Trail Distribution

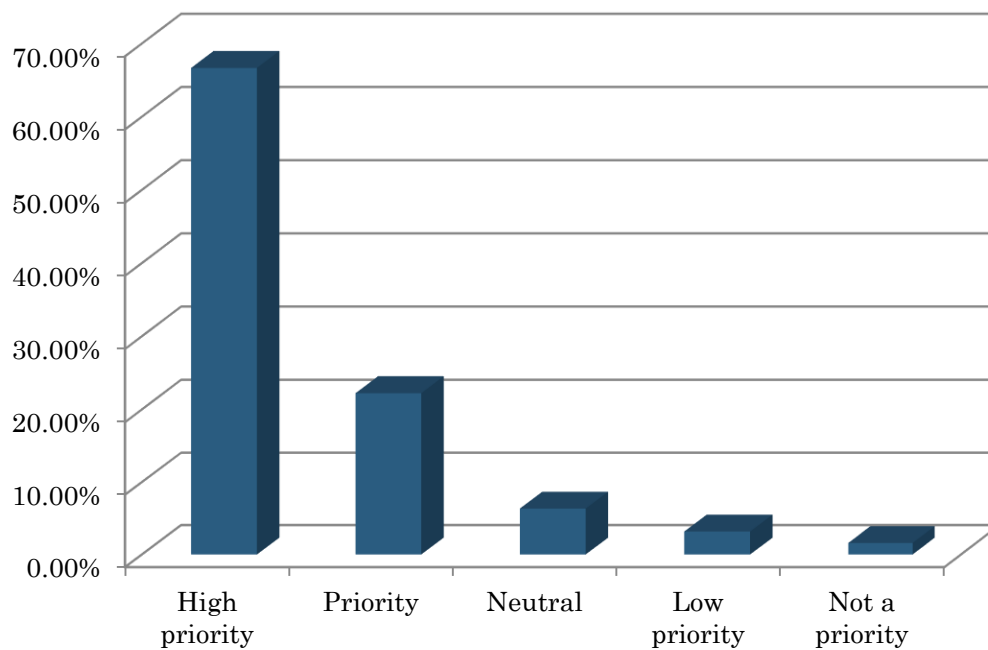
Missing neighborhood connections/ equitable community trail distribution



3

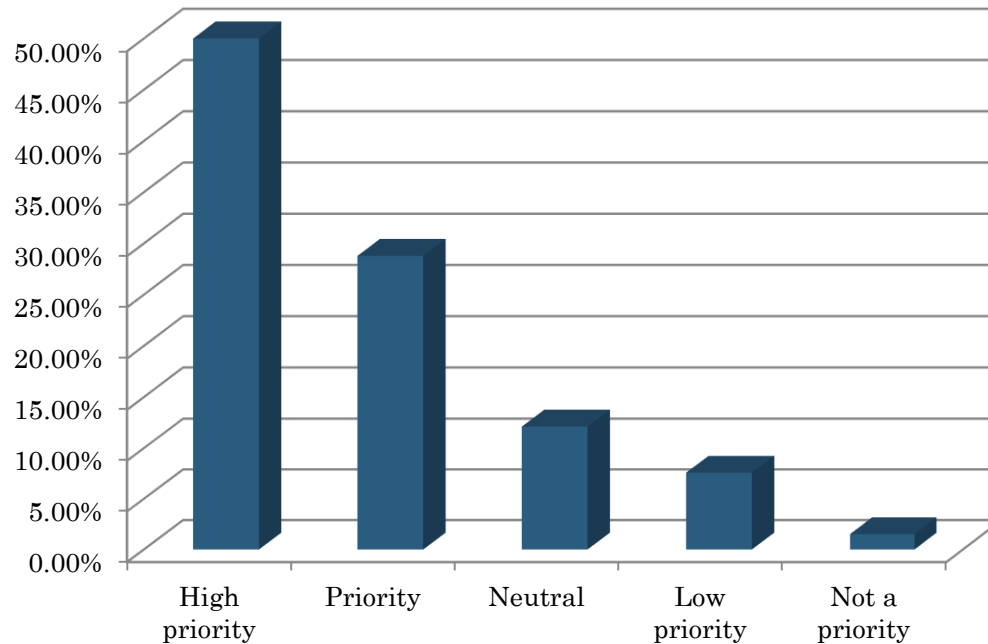
Management/ Maint.

Long term sustainable management and maintenance of the trails



4

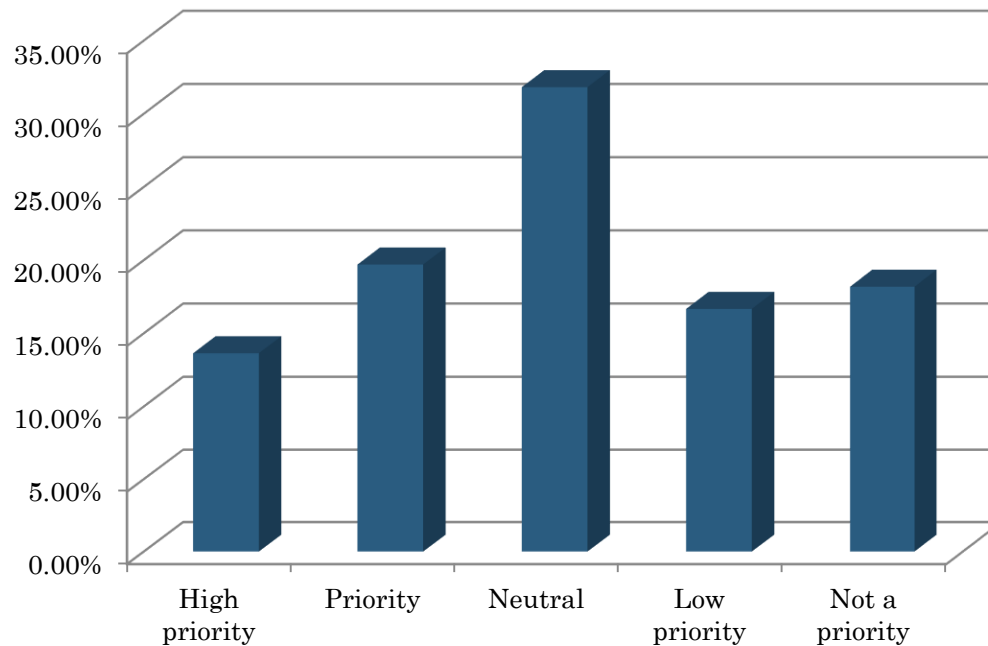
Trail Social Etiquette + Education



5

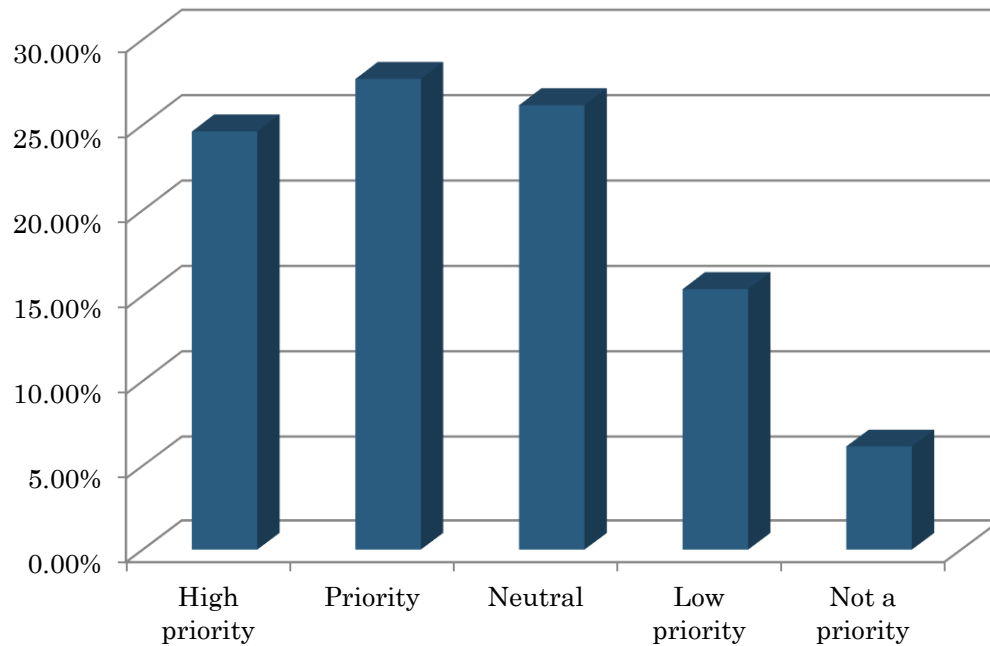
Safety and Crime

on the trails, parking areas, and in adjacent neighborhoods



6

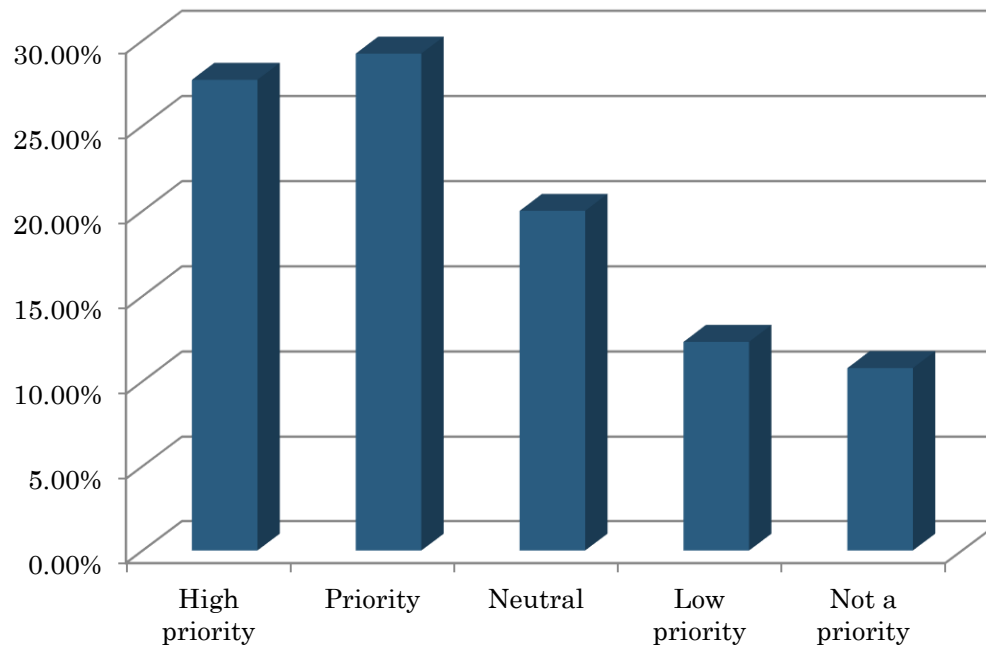
Traffic, trailheads, and lack of parking



7

Missing trail connections

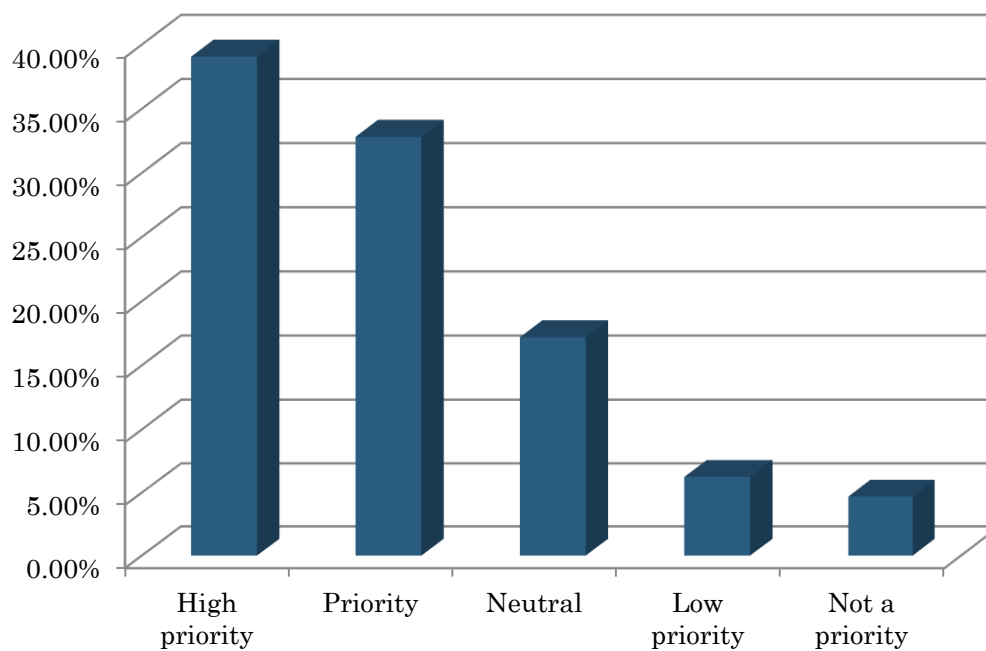
and supporting infrastructure (changing areas, waste bins, repair stands, drinking water, etc.)



8

Signage and Wayfinding

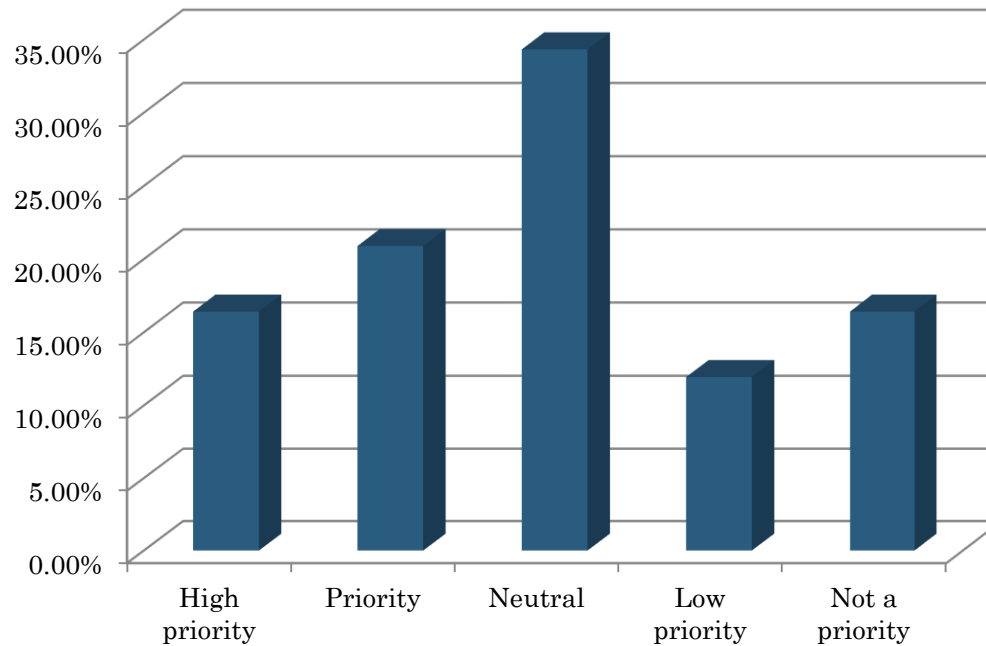
Navigation to Duluth Traverse Trail from the City, at access points, and along the trail



9

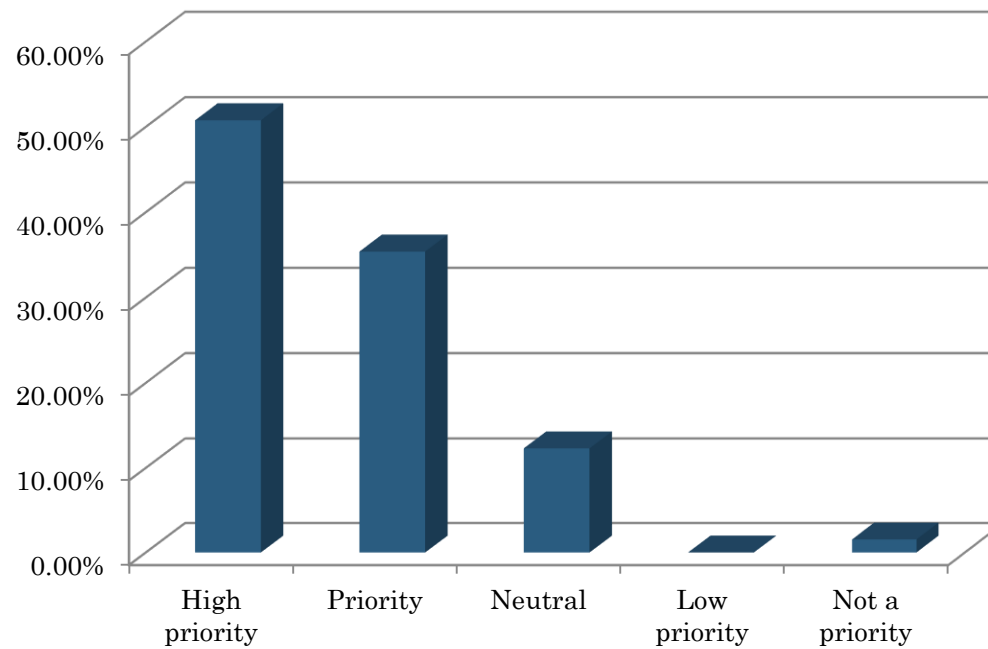
Skill Building Areas

Including facilities to improve rider skill and safety level

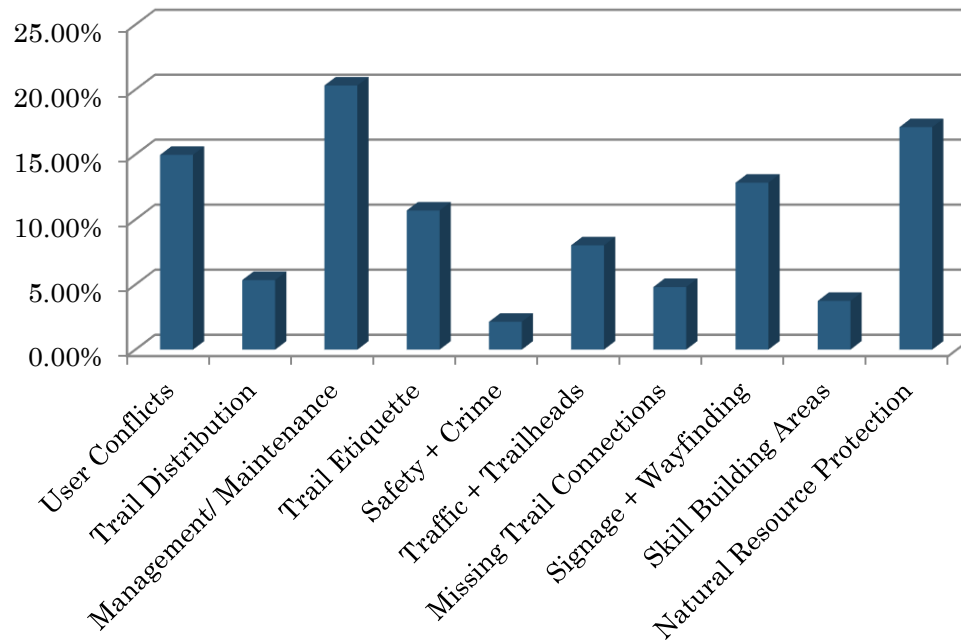


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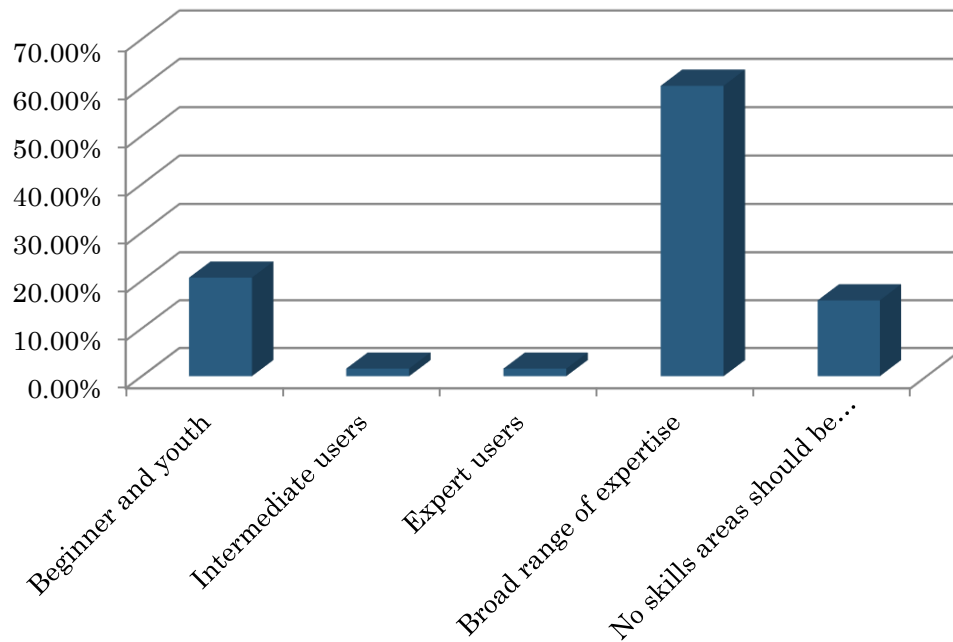
Natural Resource Protection



Which of these issues do you feel should be the top priorities? (choose 3)

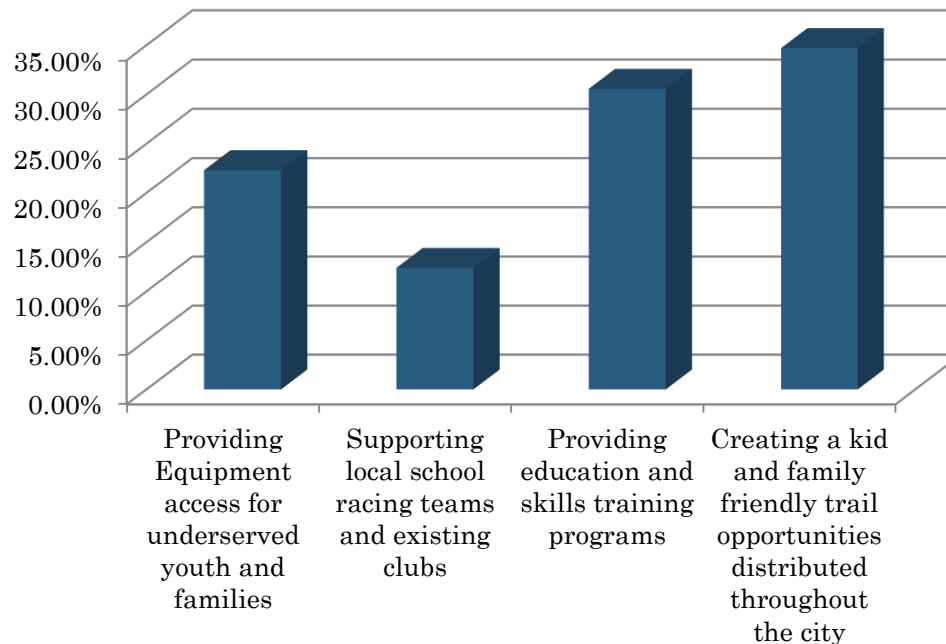


Bike Skills in the DT Master Plan should be focused on:



Youth Outreach (choose 2)

Both the City of Duluth and COGGS believe that youth outreach is fundamental to the long-term sustainability of the trail system and mountain biking in Duluth. In your opinion, which of the following should the top priorities for this outreach:





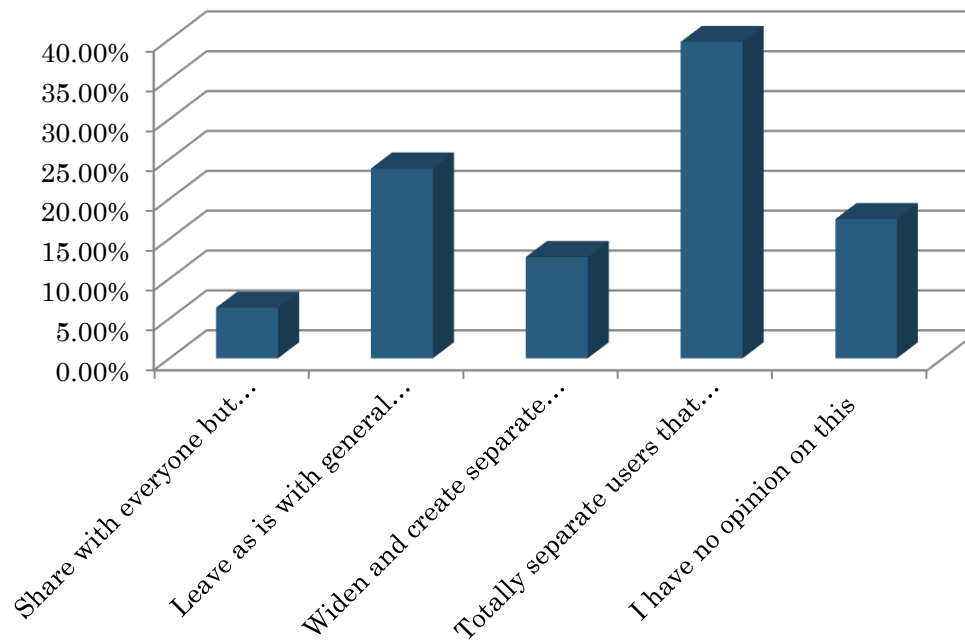
The DWP Corridor is one of the few stretches of trail on the DT not constructed. The DWP provides sever issues/ opportunities:

- Physical surface of trail is able to sustainably support high impact modes – Equestrian, Snowmobile
- A 4-mile section is narrow, but a key connector for several user groups

The next series of questions will explore your opinions on allowing and managing equestrian and snowmobile use:

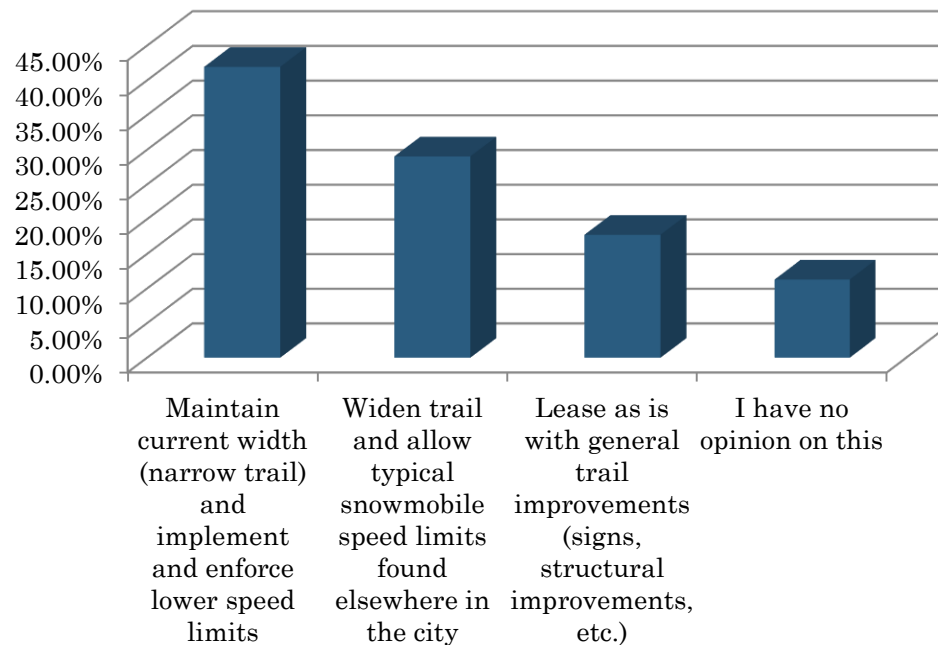
Equestrian

Equestrian usage on this section of trail has been identified in the St. Louis River Corridor Planning efforts. How should equestrian usage on this stretch of the DWP be implemented:



Snowmobile

Snowmobile usage on this section of trail could create an important connection to other existing snowmobile trails in the city. If implemented the trail would remain a multi-use trail in the winter. In your opinion, how could it be implemented:





PLEASE TURN IN YOUR CLICKERS!

Social Pinpoint



Online tool demonstration

<https://confluence-minneapolis.mysocialpinpoint.com/traversetrail#/>



Open House Stations

1. DWP Focus Area
2. West Focus Area
3. Central Focus Area
4. East Focus Area
5. Social Pinpoint
6. General Comments and Guiding Principles